

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 4578 to the instructions of 4577 of the motion to refer.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, insert the following:

"and include any data on the impact on local school districts"

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4579 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4578

Mr. REID. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 4579 to amendment No. 4578.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, insert the following:

"and the impact on the local community"

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I announce to the Senate, as I did earlier today, that in the morning, we hope at 9:30, Senators LEAHY and SESSIONS will be here to move to the Kagan nomination to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business.

The Senator is recognized.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Thank you, Madam President.

5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CAFTA

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, today is a historic day, in some sense. Five years ago today, President Bush signed the Central American Free Trade Agreement, on August 2, 2005.

A month earlier—I was a Member of the House of Representatives then—the majority leader, Tom DeLay, a Republican from Texas, held the 15-minute

typical vote—a rollcall vote in the House of Representatives is normally held open for 15, 20 minutes, at the most—he held the 15-minute vote open for more than an hour while last-minute deals were made. The U.S. Trade Representative was camped just off the House floor. He was a former Member of Congress.

According to news reports, after this hour delay, arms were "twisted into a thousand pieces." Republicans who were opposed or undecided were courted during hurried meetings in Capitol hallways, on the House floor, and at the White House. Republican leaders told rank-and-file, reluctant Republicans, who really did not want to vote for this deal, that now is time to ask, that deals could be cut.

Members took advantage of the opportunity by requesting such things as fundraising appearances by the Vice President and the restoration of money the White House had tried to cut from agricultural programs. That is how they passed it.

People, even Republican House Members, who were generally enthralled to corporate interests, who normally would go with the drug companies, the insurance companies, the large financial institutions, who would almost always vote for them, even many of them wanted to vote no, but because of this, as the paper said, arm twisting "into a thousand pieces" on the House floor, enough of them voted for it to pass the bill.

When the 15-minutes had expired, the vote was 175 "yes," 180 "no." So in order to pass it, they had to keep the rollcall open for about another hour to twist these arms and finally pass the legislation, if I recall, by 1 vote.

We know what has happened. The Central American Free Trade Agreement has not worked any better than other trade agreements. We know that job loss in the last 10 years—because of PNTR with China, passed by the Senate 10 years ago this fall—we know, in Ohio alone, we have seen job loss to the Dominican Republic from the Central American Free Trade Agreement, the CAFTA. We have seen job loss from a company in Marysville, a company in Miamisburg, a company in Hudson, OH. We have seen job loss all over the country. We have seen it with the North American Free Trade Agreement. We have seen it with the PNTR with China. And we have seen it with the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

I was at a plant today in Parma, OH, a suburb of Cleveland, the corporate headquarters of GraphTech. It is a company that used to be part of Union Carbide and is actually the plant where the Eveready battery originated. They specialize in graphite for major industrial concerns such as the steel industry. They also make graphite for solar, for all kinds of things, for flat screen TVs, for electronic equipment. They, as so many other companies, are doing well. They have actually hired 60 peo-

ple in the last year. They are looking to hire more. I spoke to about 150 workers today. Most of them do not do production in this facility. But they have production in Lakewood, right nearby, a few miles away in another suburb of Cleveland.

But this company is always under threat from China gaming the system. When I was talking to workers and management, I was talking about how China, because of its currency—this competition from China has been so difficult for American companies because they do not play fair.

I was speaking to an expert who deals a lot with China. I said: Because of this huge trade deficit we have with China—we buy a lot more from China than we export to them—do they laugh at us?

He said: No, they don't laugh at us. They just think we are a declining power.

It breaks my heart to think China thinks that, but it breaks my heart even more when I see what is happening to our manufacturing base.

This company, GraphTech, is so important for our economic future, but so is getting these trade agreements right.

The Obama administration, fortunately, has just this week launched an action to announce that the United States will file a case against Guatemala under the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement—the CAFTA—for apparent violations of obligations on labor rights. It is the first time a President has done that. That is good news. That salvages some of the damage done by the Central American Free Trade Agreement, CAFTA, because for decades our government has negotiated trade agreements which give lip service to protecting workers while looking the other way when there were clear violations of labor rights. We are willing to protect intellectual property in Hollywood films, but we are not so willing to protect workers in the environment.

This action by the Obama administration, again, is a good thing, but we need to do much, much more. We have all kinds of petitions filed, and requests, from industries and workers in this country who have been wronged, cheated, gamed by the trade agreements that have passed, and we clearly need the Obama administration on our side fighting for American workers, fighting for American jobs. It did not happen in the previous administration, to the tune of millions of jobs lost, millions of manufacturing jobs lost in the 8 years of the Bush administration, with their Trade Representative who always seemed to side with large corporations in this country that outsourced jobs to China but did not side with American workers and small manufacturers in places such as Lima and Zanesville and Mansfield, OH.

So as we commemorate today, the 5-year anniversary of President Bush's

signing of the Central American Free Trade Agreement, I hope we have learned some lessons. I hope, as we observe this 5-year anniversary, as we observe the 10-year anniversary of allowing China, under permanent normal trade relations, into the World Trade Organization—and how they do not play fair as a member of that body, and how we are not willing to stand up to them as a country and force them to play fair—I hope we are learning these lessons, as we have lost too many manufacturing jobs. We were losing manufacturing jobs when our economy was going much better 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 years ago, in part because the Bush administration did not enforce any of the trade laws that could benefit us. But we are, obviously, doing even worse now with this economy. That is why President Obama's actions on some of the CAFTA enforcement of labor rights is so very important. But it does not obviate the need for us to look at these trade laws again to figure out what works and what does not work.

We know what does not work. We know more trade agreements only dig us deeper into a hole. That does not serve American workers. It does not serve those American companies that cannot compete when China games the system on currency and other things, and it does not serve those communities where these businesses are located.

Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I rise today to speak on behalf of Rhode Islanders who are fed up with our inaction to address climate change and to reform our Nation's energy policy.

In the media and in this very Chamber, we have all seen the tactics of deception and delay intended to convince the American public that the overwhelming body of climate science is inconclusive, that there is some doubt about whether our planet is experiencing unnatural changes in its climate. They argue that the American people are not concerned about warming temperatures, rising sea levels, and shrinking glaciers. They imply that business as usual is our best option, that job-creating, clean energy technologies built right here in America aren't worth the trouble or the investment. These voices of deception and delay are simply wrong.

During my time representing Rhode Island in the Senate, I have received thousands of letters and phone calls urging that this Chamber take bold action to price carbon and create clean energy jobs that will fuel our economy for generations to come. Contrary to what detractors would have us think,

the vast majority of my constituents know that continuing to fiddle as the world warms is irresponsible, dangerous, and harmful to our Nation's interests.

Some of the most poignant letters I have received are from students, Boy Scouts, and other young people who are concerned about the future of the planet they will inherit from us. In December, a high school student from Wakefield named Kristin shared her concerns, writing to me:

As a teenager with my whole life ahead of me, I am concerned about the dire consequences of climate change and the impact it will have not only upon Rhode Island, but the whole world.

Kristin says she hopes to stay in Rhode Island for the long term, but she is worried about the impacts rising ocean temperatures may have on the vitality of the fishing industry—a critical economic driver for the Ocean State that she calls home. By continuing to delay climate legislation, we not only damage the Earth for Kristin's generation, we also force her and her peers to be participants in an economy based on unchecked carbon emissions, unwilling contributors to the damage of their planet.

Rhode Islanders also believe they will benefit from comprehensive climate legislation because energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies will be the foundation of a vibrant new clean energy economy.

Doug from Newport recently started a small business designing and installing residential solar panels. He hears from many of his potential customers that they want to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels, especially in light of the BP oilspill down in the gulf. Doug does everything he can to make his product affordable. He helps his customers investigate loan options and tax credits, and he offers prices significantly lower than many of his competitors. Doug's business is a promising one, and he is undaunted by challenges, but at this point he has difficulty competing with dirty fuels such as coal that are allowed to pollute our environment for free, regardless of the costs they impose on the rest of society. Putting a price on carbon pollution would help Doug compete on a level playing field with other fuel sources.

Doug, like other clean energy supporters, has our country's best interests at heart. Doug says he wants to "get it right" by purchasing many of the solar panels from manufacturers in the United States, creating jobs here in America and keeping our energy dollars from flowing overseas. Nonetheless, he says American-made products are often more expensive or even sometimes unavailable. That is because other countries such as China and India are outpacing the United States in the advancement of wind and solar technology while we continue to subsidize coal and oil. We are deliberately losing this race at this point. It is long

past due to make coal and oil start paying for the pollution they create in our environment and to begin investing in clean energy policies that will promote American businesses like Doug's.

Another constituent, Gary from Wakefield, wrote in after hearing that a wind farm in Texas was being built with turbines manufactured in China. He was understandably frustrated that the American economy didn't benefit from the jobs that made-in-America turbines would have generated. Gary demanded to know: "What are we waiting for?"

Rhode Islanders overwhelmingly support energy reform that will create jobs and make polluters pay. Construction workers, small business owners, biodiesel producers, and renewable energy manufacturers wait anxiously for America to start catching up with our competitors around the globe. Schoolchildren want to know that the natural world and all its beauty and diversity will be preserved for their enjoyment and exploration well into the future. Consumers want to reap the benefits of energy efficiency technology that will let them keep money in their pockets that we are now sending overseas to fuel our oil addiction. Faith-based groups want to be good stewards of God's Earth, as they believe mankind is charged to be. Grandparents want to share the world as they have known it with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

As we move ever closer to the close of the 111st Congress, the question Gary asked rings even louder: What are we waiting for?

I wish to refer to an article in the Wall Street Journal from July 29, 2010, reporting a new assessment that concludes that the Earth has been getting warmer over the past 50 years and the past decade was the warmest on record. It describes the "State of the Climate 2009" report published Wednesday in a special supplement to the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society. It was compiled by 300 scientists from 48 countries, and it drew on 10 climate indicators.

Seven of the indicators were rising: air temperature over land, sea-surface temperature, sea level, ocean heat, humidity—all going up. Three indicators were declining: Arctic sea ice, glaciers, spring snow cover in the northern hemisphere. Those are all declining.

"Each indicator is changing as we'd expect in a warming world," said Peter Thorne, the senior researcher at the Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites. The report concluded:

Global average surface and lower-troposphere temperatures during the last three decades have been progressively warmer than all earlier decades, and the 2000s (2000–09) was the warmest decade in the instrumental record.

The scientists reported they were surprised to find Greenland's glaciers were losing ice at an accelerating rate. They concluded that 90 percent of the additional warmth over the past 50